

- (iv) Higher Incentives for High Value Sales.
- (v) Benchmark for sale of unit linked plans, Pension Plans and other specific plans.
- (vi) Minimum number of lives fixed 550 lives as the current average productivity of Development Officers is more than 1000 lives.

(d) and (e) LIC has framed the scheme as per the Regulation 59 of Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulation, 1960 after a series of deliberations and consultations with representatives of Development Officers including National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India. The Regulations have been notified by the Corporation with previous approval of the Central Government.

Report of Empowered Committee on VAT

71. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the empowered Committee on State Finance Ministers on VAT has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations;

(c) whether the Central Government would withdraw the financial support to the States who do not implement VAT with effect from April, 2005; and

(d) by when the Central Sales Tax would be phased out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per the terms of reference, the Empowered Committee of States Finance Ministers is not required to submit any report.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In the meeting of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers held on 2nd November 2004, it was decided that the Central Sales Tax shall continue during the year 2005-06. The Empowered Committee would review the position during 2005-06 and advise the Central Government.

Sale of NSCs in U.P. and Bihar

†72. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Savings Certificates sold in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last three years and the year-wise and district-wise details of amount earned through the sales of the said Certificates;

(b) whether Government have received information regarding frauds being committed in managing the National Savings Certificates; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard, district-wise and the details of action taken to avert such risks in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being obtained.

World Bank Projects in Bihar and U.P.

† 73. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) the details of projects primed with the aid of World Bank and Asian Development Bank in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the amount allocated as a grant by the above banks, project-wise; and

(c) the details of work carried out in the above States so far with the aid of the above banks, project-wise and region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A Statement in respect of ongoing World Bank assisted projects in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in attached. (See below) There is no grant component in these projects. There are no ongoing Asian Development Bank assisted projects in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The projects above are in sectors such as agriculture, education,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

health, water sector restructuring, rural development and roads. The area of work for these projects involves, improving the performance of the core road system by upgrading and widening priority state highways; initiating irrigation and drainage sub-sector reforms and enabling institutional and policy framework for water sector reform for integrated water resources management; establishing an appropriately managed health system through the delivery of effective services; building capacity for appropriate quality of primary education for all children; and increasing agricultural productivity. The work on the above activities in various parts of the states is currently under Implementation in order to achieve the development objectives of the projects.

Statement

*World bank assisted ongoing projects in the States of Bihar and UP
(as on February 2005)*

(In US\$ million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Sector	State*	Amount**
1.	Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project	Central	Bihar, U.P.	620
2.	Rural Roads Project	Central	U.P.	399.5
3.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	Central	Bihar, U.P.	68
4.	Elementary Education Project	Central	Bihar, U.P.	500
5.	Allahabad Bypass Project	Central	U.P.	240
6.	Food and Drugs Capacity building Project	Central	Bihar, U.P.	54.03
7.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	State	U.P.	488
8.	Technical/Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project	Central	U.P.	250
9.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	State	U.P.	149.2
10.	Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project	Central	Bihar, U.P.	589
11.	Third National Highways Project	Central	Bihar, U.P.	516
12.	Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Development Project	State	U.P.	110
13.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Central	Bihar, U.P.	142.6
14.	Uttar Pradesh Third District Primary Education Project	State	U.P.	182.4